

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- Errors in coded macroblocks are concealed during decoding by way of an error concealment stage ~~(20)~~present in a decoder ~~(10)~~. Error-concealed macroblocks produced by the error concealment stage undergo deblocking filtering by a deblocking filter ~~(22)~~before being output by the decoder to avoid the spread of erroneous pixel values. The error concealment stage ~~(20)~~controls the deblocking filter ~~(22)~~in accordance with the error concealment technique to vary the strength of the deblocking filter to force maximum strength on transitions artificially created by the recovery of lost macroblocks. --